



Football Bulletin

No. 3

For Athletic Directors, Football Coaches, Football Officials and Observers

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Heading into the third week of the conference season, there is no doubt that this football season will be as competitive as ever, perhaps more so. A coaches thought, and he was probably speaking for every coach in the North Central Conference, "I am hopeful the officials are officiating for this year."

We are all sorry to see the NCC end it's eight decades of football, and no I have not been here for all eight of those decades. Let's make it the best year every for officiating by working each and every game to the end. As my predecessor was always fond of saying, "we can't worry about things we have no control over."

We have no control over what is happening to our league.....we do have control over working hard and making every one of last NCC games, the best possible

Fighting: The penalties for fighting included suspension that might carry over to the next game. Rule 9-5.2-32-1 defines fighting as "**any attempt...to strike an opponent in a combative manner unrelated to football**". It also includes "an unsportsmanlike act toward an opponent that cause the opponent to retaliate by fighting." The penalty in any event is 15 yards from the succeeding spot. The ejection and suspension differs somewhat depending on when the fight takes place. If squad members in uniform or coaches fight before the game or during the first half they are disqualified for the remainder of the game. If the fight takes place at halftime or during the second half, the participants are disqualified for the remainder of the game and for the first half of the next game. In addition, substitutes and coaches who leave the team area to participate in a fight are disqualified for the remainder of the game and for the entire next game. There is an additional part of the rule for a second offense.

Anyone who is disqualified a second time during the season is suspended for the rest of the season. Note: the suspension rule applies only to those ejections that result from fighting. A player who is ejected for a flagrant foul that does not involve fighting is not subjected to any suspension during the next game, nor is there any second offender rule for non-fighting ejections.

Note: fighting as written in the rule and interpretations can include only one player but as we all know, it takes two to tango. See the whole play, call what you see and see what you call.

Ball carrier: Action on and by ball carrier can make for tough situations. The rule book (page FR 116) says no player subject to the rules shall strike an opponents helmet (Including the face mask), neck, face or other part of the body with an extended forearm, elbow, locked hands, palms, fist or the heel, back or side of the open hand...the book continues (page FR 118) with that no player shall continuously contact an opponents helmet (including the face mask) with hand(s) or arm(s). *Exception:* by or against the runner. Unsportsmanlike acts either in the act of attempting to tackle the ball carrier and unsportsmanlike acts by the ball carrier in an attempt to evade a tackle are at all times subject to the rules. This note is just to insure the officials with the primary responsibility on the

ball carrier at the time of the tackling process are protecting all players.

Deep officials: Make sure we coordinate our efforts any time punts threaten the goal line. Both in the pregame on in every kicking situation. Don't let a play at the goal line every surprise us.

Formations and numbering: Team A must have at least seven players on the line of scrimmage. There be more but without a minimum of second, Team A is guilty of an illegal formation. Of these seven linemen, at least five must be numbered 50 thru 79 unless Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation. A scrimmage kick formation is one where Team A has at least one player seven yards or more behind the neutral zone, no one is under the snapper and it is obvious that Team A will attempt a scrimmage kick. In this formation, Team A is allowed to have any number of players whose uniform numbers lie outside the 50-79 range.

Any player who is originally an exception to this numbering pattern must not be on the end of the line at the snap. "Originally" in this sense means when the snapper touches or simulates touching the ball. Example: Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation with only four players on the line having numbers in the 50-79 range. A32 lines up as RT just inside the RE82 Before the snap, A82 shifts into the backfield leaving A32 on the end of the line and simultaneously A40 moves from the backfield to the end of the line to become the LE. All are stationary for one second, and the ball is snapped. Ruling: live ball foul by Team A for an illegal formation. A32 may not be at the end of the line at the snap in this situation.

Some quick reminders:

The ball becomes dead immediately when the ball carrier's helmet comes completely off.

Wing people: keep your relays passes between each other and the umpire underhanded and short. Keep the ball off the ground. Also, finish reffing the play (meaning make sure all players are heading back to their huddles) before turning away from the action to get a new ball.

Linesmen, Line Judges: on any running play, don't give up the line of scrimmage until the ball carrier has passed you and line of scrimmage.

Referees: make sure we clear ourselves of all players before signaling penalties and using the field mike.

Good work: Reports indicate that we as officials did a better job last week both in sideline control and administering the free kick restraining line. Let's go for two weeks in a row.

Here we go again: Never should we as officials threaten a coach or a player, even in jest. We are not hired as comedians. Not only is it unprofessional but in almost every case, it will come back to bite you in the ass. Everytime you open your mouth on the field you stand a good chance of putting your foot in it. Not everything you say is repeated to a coach or a teammate in the manner it was spoken. It is really hard for me to defend an official when a coach relates what he thinks is a stupid comment or what he perceives to be a stupid comment. It is really hard to requote silence.